(d) the steps proposed to review the functioning of disaster management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Crisis Management Group is already a broad-based forum in which representatives of various Ministries / organisations of the Government of India are represented. It is chaired by the Central Relief Commissioner in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and it meets as often as is necessary during crisis situations. The representatives of the States affected by calamities are also invited to the meetings.

(b) and (c) Under the existing scheme for financing relief expenditure, the state-wise annual allocations of Calamity Relief Fund have been made on the basis of the recommendations of the Xth Finance Commission. The Commission took into account the average of ceilings of expenditure approved by the Government of India for management of natural calamities during the ten years, 1980—89. The Xth Finance Commission is currently reviewing the existing scheme including the Calamity Relief Fund's allocations to states on the basis of representations and comments received from State Governments and various departments of Government of India.

(d) The State Governments have adequate arrangements for disaster management. They undertake rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamities, in accordance with the provision contained in their relief manuals / codes.

Export of Floriculture Products

4238. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry is working on an ambitious target of raising the export of cut flowers, tissue-culture plants and other floriculture products;

(b) whether to gain entry in the higher-end of the blooming international flower trade, any research is being undertaking to evolve hybrid varieties of orchids, which are in the great demand because of their longevity; and

(c) if so, the broad features of any plan formulated by his Ministry in this behalf and how it is aimed to achieve the target for the export of horticultural and floricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c)ICAR is setting up a National Research Centre of Orchids during the 8th Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 120.0C lakhs to undertake mission oriented research on all aspects of orchids improvement and production.

On the recommendations of the Group of Ministers set up for enhancement of export of horticultural / floricultural products, action plan and project proposals have been developed identifying commodities and infrastructural facilities to be created, investments required and the policy issues to be resolved. Implementation of these recommendations have already been initiated.

News Paper Report on Rapeseed Production

4239. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item captioned "US firms's patent threatens rapeseed production appearing in the "Business Standard," New Delhi dated the 8th August, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter as ascertained by his Ministry;

(c)the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d)how Government propose to meet the threat posed to the Indian rapeseed crop from the genetically engineered edible oil derived orginally from the rapeseed by the US-based biotechnology corporation, Calgene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry is aware of the news item on the said subject. US-based Biotech Corporation, Calgene has reportedly obtained patent for rapeseed mustard for high levels of "laurate canola" which makes it ideal for both industrial and edible oil purposes. Canola quality means low